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NSC BRIEFING

18 March 1954

CURRENT VIET MINH POLITICAL OBJECTIVES

- I. French High Commissariat Saigon believes Viet Minh anxious obtain defacto recognition from Paris govt before Geneva.
 - A. Hope to undermine US-French relations and Bao Dai govt.
 - B. Communists would use such recognition at Geneva ^{to} prove Ho Chi Minh speaks for Vietnamese people.
- II. French Commissariat also says Communist propaganda now stressing need for truce before Geneva.
 - A. On 13 March Viet Minh radio praised Nehru's cease-fire proposal.

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III. French also point out Viet Minh charges against US growing ever more violent.

A. Viet Minh now refers American technicians in Indochina as "belligerents".

B. OCI Comment: Report received yesterday [REDACTED] says enemy troops threatening ^{Deson} airfield near Haiphong where 100 US technicians located.

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1. This could be attempt involve them in actual fighting.

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